Increase in import of edible oil

2113. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of edible oil is likely to increase by 12 lakh tonnes, more than what had been envisaged earlier, at the end of October, 1987;

(b) if so. what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intend to deliver the entire supply of edible oil through P.D.S. in small packs of one kg.?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The quantum of import of edible oils is decided by the Government taking into account several factors like gap in demand & supply of indigenous edible oils, incentive to farmers, prevailing international prices, prices of edible oils in domestic market. constraints of foreign exchange, availability etc., which are reviewed from time to time.

(c) The Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation, a public sector undertaking, is already marketing imported edible oil in small packs which are handed over to agencies nominated by the State Government. The State Governments are free to sell these through fair price shops or through cooperative outlets. Recently. Government have decided to supply maximum possible quantity of imported oil in small packs of 250 kg to 5 kg. through public Distribution System.

Requirement of Steel

2114. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the requirement of steel for the country by the turn of the century and the likely shortfall in the production of steel;

(b) what is the manner by which Government propose to fill up the shortfall and what portion of it is likely to be given to private sector and what portion to the public sector;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a steel plant in or around Hastar in view of the availability of quality iron ore in Bastar district, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is examining the best techno-economic options for filling up this gap.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal with the Government.

Red palm plantation

2115. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Red Palm plantation undertaken in Tamilnadu and Kerala has started yielding and if so, what is the quantity of the yield; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to further increase the average of red palm plantation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Red palm plantation un-

dertaken in Kerala has started yielding around 2 tonnes oil palm per hectare in the matured plantation of 1,165 hectare. Suitable land for palm cultivation in Tamilnadu has been identified.

(b) The red palm plantation has been undertaken in Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands on an experimental basis. Government of India has taken measures to identify suitable land for oil palm cultivation in Tamilnadu, Karnataka Andhra and North-eastern States.

Involvement of Co-operative sector in Public Distribution System

2116. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any policy decision to encourage the involvement of cooperative sector in the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government have evaluated the performance of Co-operative Sector *vis-a-vis* private traders in Public Distribution System, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken to eliminate the private traders from Public Distribution System; and

(d) what percentage of fair price shops in the country are still in the hands of private traders, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for the organisation and administration of the public distribution system in their respective areas. The Central Government have suggested to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that the cooperatives should be given a large role in the distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System. In some States, more fair price shops are in the cooperative sector.

No evaluation of the performance of the cooperative sector *vis-a-vis* the private traders in the Public Distributions System has been made by Government in India.

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

State/Union Territory	Percentage of fair price shops run by private traders
1. Andhra Pradesh	90.8
2. Assam	96.2
3. Bihar	91.7
4. Gujarat	66.7
5. Haryana	73.1
6. Himachal Pradesh	18.3
7. Jammu and Kashmir	N.A.
8. Karnataka	68.5
9. Kerala	NIL
10. Madhya	31.0
11. Maharashtra	73.1
12. Manipur	97.9
13 Meghalaya	96.9
14. Nagaland	85.6
15. Orissa	75.1
16. Punjab	75.9
17. Rajasthan	54.0
18. Sikkim	92.8
19. Tamil Nadu	24.5
20. Tripura	65.2
21. Uttar Pradesh	65.9
22. West Bengal	94.6
23. Andaman & Nicobar	68.3
24. Arunachal Pradesh	92.9
25. Chandigarh	78.5
26. D. N. Haveli	95.6
27. Delhi	95.6
28. Goa, Daman & Diu	56.0
29. Lakshadweep	NIL
30. Mizoram	97.4
31. Pondicherry	24.7
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	68.7